

Sisters' Society C. E.

From the Field

A very happy New Year to the readers of the EVANGELIST and may not the remembrance of those loving words of Jesus, "Lo I am with you always," make them happier yet. The thought is made more comforting when we keep in mind those other words, "I will instruct thee, I will teach thee in the way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eye." How much you and I need His guidance! We know not what is before us, we cannot see thru the gloom, but there is joy in the darkness when we believe his Word and thus become conscious that "He leads the way." Our faith may have been shattered the past year, our feet may have wandered somewhat, but that we should try to forget, and as 1900 dawns we'll let "by-gones be by-gones" while the shadow of the cross covers our entire past and with renewed energy we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." The difficulties and temptations will likely be greater than last year, but with our hand submissively in His, we need have no fear of marring the beauty of the clean white pages that record our deeds in the book that opens to us New Year's morning. Shall we not resolve to give the best we have to Jesus, even as Mary did, give the first moments of the morning, etc., then we shall become aware that he gives the best to us and we'll have victory instead of defeat. Let us each look to him for a helpful verse in Scripture that will best suit our case for the coming year, a New Year's motto that He delights to give.

The North Liberty, Indiana, Brethren have as yet no church house nor pastor, or regular services of any kind, their occasional meetings being held in a church they rent for the time of the service. We had two meetings but no direct result as to organizing an S. S. C. E. can be reported, tho they readily saw the necessity of having a society under which they might hold regular devotional meetings in their homes, and also put forth united effort to build a house on their church lot in the town of North Liberty. A few of the Walkerton members drove to the meetings, but not enough of their own members were present to start a good organization, and they expect to wait until the evangelist, Brother Ditch, holds a meeting for them.

From North Liberty I went to South Bend where I was entertained in the pleasant home of Sister Frame. Our services Wednesday night was not largely attended but I had the pleasure of meeting with a most sociable band of brethren and sisters. Their S. S. C. E. is working on; it was the society that gave the generous Thanksgiving offering for State Mission work. A helpful visit was enjoyed with Brother and Sister Furry and Sister Miller in her comfortable home.

I am now at New Troy, Michigan, which is twenty some miles from South Bend. The good attendance at our first meeting last night, Friday, is one of the evidences of a

live church and active society. They have a good church house, free from debt, a good Sunday school, a K. C., as well as an S. S. C. E.

I expect to be back in Indiana at Brother Augustines' for Christmas day and week which will have to answer for my homegoing this holiday season.

I wish to call special attention to Mrs. Augustines' treasurer's report found in the S. S. C. E. columns of the EVANGELIST every month, giving the amount of money she pays out, and receives from the different societies and various sources. It will keep us informed, thus keep us interested in the general work. It is not a small matter for one faithful treasurer to do this work so promptly, so let us appreciate her efforts and receive the benefit, they are meant to give. Please do not send money for the Theological chair even tho it be a free will offering, or any S. S. C. E. money to Brother Cassel, of Philadelphia, as he is a member of the Mission Board, but send it all to Mrs. David Augustine, South Bend, Ind., our treasurer, and the part that is for mission work, may very conveniently be transferred to the treasurer of the General Mission Board, Mr. David Augustine. May Gods richest blessings be with you all is my prayer.

VIANNA DETWILER.

New Troy, Mich.

Our Young People

Lord, Touch My Hand

Lord, touch my hand, the fever is upon me;
I feel it in my dimmed and weakened brain;
I feel it in my parched and trembling fingers,
Which try to toil, but weary and in vain.

I see pure blossoms, and I long to hold them;
They breathe the healing my tired heart demands;
But when I touch them, lo, their perfume faileth;
They wither in my fever-heated hands!

So many duties call me, but the voices
To my sick sense will only blend and whirl;
Lord, touch my hand; at thy strong touch the fever
Shall leave me; let me rise and minister.
—Laura Updegraff in *Friends' Expositor*.

PRAYER THAT OBTAINS Luke 11:5-13;
18:2-5.

Topic Jan. 7, 1900

It has been but a few weeks since we studied the subject of prayer. Now we come to it again. It is well; there is no topic more helpful. There is no topic more full of revelations. There is no topic more all-important. Do I speak too strongly? Have you ever thought deeply upon the fact that our Lord entrusted the fate of the kingdom largely to the prayers of his followers? Has it taken thorough hold upon you that riches or poverty, opportunity or hindrance are small factors in the evangelization of the world compared with the power of prayer promised to God's people? What if those prayers are wanting or selfish in motive? And what if they be in accord with all conditions of prevailing prayers?

"Pray ye therefore that the Lord of the harvest may thrust forth laborers into his harvest." Matt 9:38.

Do we get the whole thought. The world perishing for the gospel as the white harvest goes down forward of a reaper yet Jesus simply says "pray." What does he do by this? He puts the growth of the kingdom upon its true spiritual basis. It is not an artificial thing, but like the seed sown in the

ground, which springs up, we know not how and bears the blade and blossom and ripe ear of corn, so the kingdom comes by touch of soul after soul with God. His spirit is everywhere and as the proper medium can tap the boundless electric ocean and use the power so the pure in heart, the poor in spirit, the obedient in life are assured that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much in its working."

Not that God can be coerced into obedience like a mechanical force but as he is unchangeable so there is an absolute certainty that "if we ask anything according to his will he heareth us and if he hear us we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

It remains for us then to learn how to live and how to pray that the harvest be not lost because of our sinful slothfulness.

SCRIPTURE LIGHT ON EFFECTUAL PRAYER

1. Proper objects of prayer.

Forgiveness of sin, Luke 18:13, 15; I John 1:9.
For understanding, Jas. 1:5; I Kings 3:9.
For religious revival, Hab 3:2.
For blessing at meals, Acts 27:35; I John 6:11.
For help in trouble, Ps. 40:11, 12; Jas. 5:13.
For enemies, Matt 5:44.
For success in good work, Neh 1:11.
For pastors, I Thess 5:25.
For one's country, I Kings 8:30.
For the sick, Jas. 5:14-16.
For the Holy Spirit, Luke 11:13.
For the kingdom, Matt 6:10.
For laborers, Matt. 9:37, 38.

Let the leader and members of the society show from the scriptures other things for which we may properly pray.

2. Proper motives in prayer.—The glory of God, I Cor 10:3; John 11:42.

3. Proper spirit in prayer.

Obedience, John 9:31; I John 3:21, 22.
Sincerity, John 4:23.
Humility, Luke 18:10.
Forgiveness, Mark 11:25

HELP FROM DISCUSSION

1. What do we mean by "prayer that obtains?"
2. If prayer is not answered what are we to conclude? How find out the cause of failure?
3. What are some hindrances to prayer? (Jas. 4:3; Jas. 1:6; Matt. 17:19-24; Ps. 66:18, etc.)
(TO THE LEADER.—Never allow such references as these to be read in a mumbling way and passed by. See that the thought of each is brought out by comment.)
4. What position ought we have in prayer? (Illustrations: Standing, I Kings 8:14; bowing, Ex. 34:8; sitting, I Chron. 17:16; kneeling, Luke 22:41; lying, II Chron. 20:18; Matt. 26:39)
5. Should we expect prayer always to be answered at once? (Luke 18:7)
6. Ought we expect prayer always to be answered in the way we expect? Illustrate from II Cor. 11:8-9.
7. Why is there power in united prayer? Matt. 18:19.
8. How may we learn how to pray aright?
Have all present help to suggest other teachings on prevailing prayer which are not brought out above.
Have requests for prayers and close with silent or sentence prayer.

C. F. YODER.

Making a New Start

J. R. MILLER.

In a sense there is nothing peculiar about New Year's day. It is neither longer nor shorter, brighter nor gloomier, colder nor warmer, because it is the first day of a year. Nor can we say it is more important in our life than the next, or any succeeding day will be. Every day is important. We know not as we enter its gate what may depend on its decisions, or what we may do in its short hours. We are trifling with matters of vital